

we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strong holds."

That is what the Church is doing today and will continue to do to the end. It is preserving society from total putrefaction. Its principles and its influence are the basis of every stable government on the earth. It is the emancipator of races and nations, the founder and preserver of human liberty. It is the pioneer of education and the promoter of every form of effective educational enterprise. Its influence furnishes the basis of sound national finance and all flourishing international commerce. Out of its enlightenment have come those who are the leaders in scientific experiment and discovery. Its sons, chiefly in the person of its missionaries, have been the explorers who have discovered the destitutions of heathendom that Christian philanthropy might supply them, and the unused resources of heathen lands that Christian skill and energy might develop them. It has opened up highways across great continents in which commerce has followed and from which have radiated the thoroughfares of civilization. It has taught communities and nations the meaning of such words as home and love and hope and life. It has been the world's promoter of social purity, national and international peace, intelligence, industry, prosperity and every human excellence and virtue. It is the fountain of hope for all the future and to quench it, or poison it, would be to blight the earth with moral and material pestilence and famine.

There are conditions, however, which retard the Church's growth and hinder its progress. This must be said to the discomfort of some of its professed friends and to the reproach of many of its critics.

What is the matter with the Church? The resistance, partly covert and partly overt, of an unsympathetic and indeed, hostile world. Some of these forms of resistance may be enumerated.

The Church in the spirit of its Master attempts at great cost and sacrifice to send the light and gladness of the gospel into the midst of the darkness and distress of heathendom. Into these remote lands the heralds of the Cross are followed by travelers, tradesmen, tourists, diplomats and adventurers of divers kinds. As a rule these fellow-countrymen become obstructionists and our missionaries tell us that they are in numerous cases the chief obstacle to the progress of the Gospel. That is one thing that is the matter with the Church.

In the home land the mania for making money prompts shops and exchanges and factories and playhouses and railroads and Sunday newspapers to tempt the people by offers of wages or of pleasure, to Sabbath desecration and away from gospel influences. As a result a large percentage of the people of our land are practically inaccessible to religious agencies, or if reached at all, it must be under most difficult and disheartening conditions. That is another thing that is the matter with the Church.

High moral standards must be advocated and maintained by every branch of the Church that would be true to its Lord. But when it is sought to uphold these standards a voice that calls itself the advocate of personal liberty is heard declaiming against blue laws and bigotry and narrowness. A large portion of the secular

press becomes the champion of an open Sunday and an open saloon, fountain heads of crime and shame, the monster enemies of a gospel righteousness and peace. "This also is vanity and a great evil."

It is well known that the Church has uniformly been the founder and promoter of popular education. At great cost of effort and substance, godly men, established and endowed the earlier schools of learning in this land as Christian institutions. True religion and sound learning have been fond companions throughout our history. But it has come to pass that well endowed Christian colleges and universities have become secularized and estranged from their godly origin. This wealth has passed into disloyal hands. Their endowed chairs are occupied by ungodly men, and science, falsely so-called, outlaws the very religion that gave it a home and a name. The secularization of education and the prevalence and effrontery of many forms of skepticism in the training of youth is one thing that is seriously the matter with the Church.

Prominent within the Church itself are those who would undermine its foundations. They call themselves liberals in religion. Scripture teaching is no barrier to their forming and proclaiming unscriptural opinions. The Bible was good enough until something better appeared in the person of their own erudite and phenomenal selves. The world has been waiting six thousand years for their appearance on the stage of action and they pose as the latest product of the evolution of the ages. Unabashed at their own profidy and unrebuked by their fellow churchmen, they hold on their way. Their noisy declamation of the newest unbelief catches the public ear, and the atmosphere of public thought becomes vitalized with their vaporings. This is one of the things, and a most mischievous one, that impairs the efficiency of the Church.

In a word, the matter with the Church is that it is in deadly conflict with the world and the Prince of the power of the air, the Spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. The Church wrestles "against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness." But the Church will survive its apparent defects; its infirmities will be healed and it will flourish in its vigor, and shine in its beauty when its enemies shall have been disarmed and dismayed. The imperishable truth that Jesus is the Christ, is the rock upon which the Church is being built and "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

In a report recently sent us, which we were invited to use without charge, of "Sunday School Workers in Spectacular Parade," the following paragraph will be of interest, as showing to what length such demonstrations will sometimes carry unthinking people: "The presence of women in the Salvation Army band playing horns and cornets aroused interest, and the willingness which they showed to render music at almost every turn impressed the spectators. The Latter Day Saints and the Reformed Mormons made a noticeable showing, as did also the Garden Park Baptist Church under the leadership of Fred Morrison, seventeen-year-old assistant pastor."